

## **Refractive Eye Surgery at Wilford Hall Medical Center**

Wilford Hall Medical Center, an Air Force Hospital, has provided an opportunity for Soldiers assigned to Fort Rucker to have refractive eye surgery at their clinic located in San Antonio, TX.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

- Permanent Party Active Duty personnel assigned to Fort Rucker
- Soldiers with a minimum of 18 months of active duty service commitment remaining
- Soldiers who are at least 21 years of age

### **WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE:**

- Soldiers in a student status (flight school, AIT, ANCOC/BNCOC, WOCC, etc)
- National Guard and Reserve Soldiers (unless they have 18 mos left on Active Duty at the time of surgery)

### **PROCESS:**

- Soldiers must schedule an appointment at the Optometry Clinic at Lyster Army Health Clinic (255-7185). Soldiers be dilated with very strong dilating drops—plan accordingly (those with “up slips” will be grounded for 24 hours, bring sunglasses, and possibly a driver)
- Soldiers that maintain “up slips” need to be aware that they will be grounded for a minimum of 6 weeks and up to 3 months following refractive surgery
- All follow up care will be completed in the Optometry Clinic at Lyster Army Health Clinic
- Soldiers must bring to the appointment the following documents (See FORMS):
  - Commander’s Endorsement of Refractive Eye Surgery (Note: There is a different format for rated aviation personnel)
  - Soldiers that maintain “up slips” must also bring the Corneal Refractive Surgery Checklist for Eye Care Provider (must also take that form to Wilford Hall—needed for waiver to return to flight duties)

### **Other Information:**

- Travel to/from Wilford Hall and per diem is the responsibility of the Soldier or the Soldier’s unit
- Travel for refractive surgery will **not** be funded by Lyster Army Health Clinic. Units can choose to place Soldiers on TDY status, permissive TDY status, or leave status when going to Wilford Hall
- Surgery will be scheduled on the first Tuesday of the month. Soldiers can expect to spend at least 3 days in San Antonio
- Non-medical attendants are not required
- Follow up appointments will be scheduled at the Optometry Clinic at Lyster Army Health Clinic (minimum: 1 week/1 month/3 months; those maintaining “up slips”

will have more frequent visits within the first 2 months to meet the requirements for an aeromedical waiver)